



Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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Keith B. Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer

January 7, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McCollum:

I write on behalf of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and on behalf of my fellow Business Council members Vice Chairman Glynn A. Crooks and Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson.

Our Tribe was extremely pleased when the Congress last year enacted long-awaited provisions reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and barring further IRS taxation of tribally-provided health benefits to tribal members.

We and other Tribes sought reauthorization of the IHCIA for over a decade. As a result of the IHCIA reauthorization last year, new cost savings and health opportunities are now available to our Tribe and many other Tribes.

We recognize that the vehicle upon which these IHCIA provisions was enacted, the overall Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA), has engendered considerable controversy. But as PPACA is now under review and reconsideration in the House, we ask that you do everything in your power to protect and preserve the Indian health provisions referenced above.

In all fairness, our important cause should not become a political pawn in unrelated battles. Under treaties, statutes, and agreements, the United States has a trust responsibility to provide health care to Native Americans. The United States took a huge step forward toward meeting that trust responsibility last year in reauthorizing the IHCIA and including other Indian health provisions in PPACA. Please urge your colleagues to not take any action that would disrupt or frustrate the implementation of these recently enacted Indian health provisions.

Very truly yours,

Stanley R. Crooks
Tribal Chairman